

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) A laundry detergent composition in the form of a particulate, paste, gel, or bar, the composition comprising;

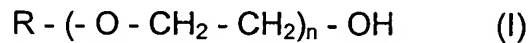
- (i) from 5 to 40 wt %, ~~preferably from 7 to 30 wt %~~, of an anionic surfactant,
- (ii) from 1 to 20 wt %, ~~preferably from 1 to 10 wt %, more preferably from 2 to 6 wt %, most preferably from 3 to 5 wt %~~, of a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance (HLB value) of from 13 to 25, ~~preferably from 15 to 22, most preferably from 16 to 22~~,
- (iii) optionally from 0 to 50 wt % of a cationic surfactant,
- (iv) optionally from 0 to less than 10 wt % of a detergency builder wherein the amount of a phosphate builder is from 0 to 5 wt %,
- (v) optionally from 0 to 85 wt % of an inorganic non-builder salt,
- (vi) optionally from 0 to 3 wt % of a polycarboxylate polymer, and
- (vii) optionally other detergent ingredients to 100 wt %.

Claim 2: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance (HLB value) of from 14 to 19.5.

Claim 3: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant (ii) is an alkoxyated alcohol nonionic surfactant.

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkoxyated alcohol nonionic surfactant has a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance (HLB value) of from 15 to 20, ~~preferably from 16 to 18.~~

Claim 5: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant (ii) is an ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant of the general formula I



wherein R is a hydrocarbyl chain having from 8 to 16 carbon atoms, and the average degree of ethoxylation n is from 15 to 50, ~~preferably 20 to 50.~~

Claim 6: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant has a hydrocarbyl chain containing from 10 to 16 carbon atoms, ~~preferably from 12 to 15 carbon atoms.~~

Claim 7: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant has an average degree of ethoxylation n of from 16 to 40.

Claim 8: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant has a hydrocarbyl chain containing from 10 to 16 carbon atoms and an average degree of ethoxylation n of from 20 to 40.

Claim 9: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is free from nonionic surfactants other than the nonionic surfactant (ii).

Claim 10: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant (i) is an anionic sulphonate or sulphate surfactant.

Claim 11: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein the anionic surfactant (i) is linear alkylbenzene sulphonate.

Claim 12: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the anionic surfactant (i) to the nonionic surfactant (ii) is within the range of from 1:1 to 15:1, ~~preferably from 1:1 to 10:1, more preferably from 2:1 to 6:1, most preferably from 2.5:1 to 5:1.~~

Claim 13: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic non-builder salt (v) is present in an amount of from 0 to 60 wt %, ~~preferably from 1 to 40 wt %.~~

Claim 14: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic non-builder salt (v) is present in an amount of from 1 to 80 wt %, ~~preferably from 10 to 75 wt %.~~

Claim 15: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic non-builder salt (v) is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate, burkeite, sodium silicate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein sodium carbonate is present in an amount of from 10 to 50 wt %, preferably from 20 to 40 wt %.

Claim 17: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sodium sulphate is present in an amount of from 10 to 50 wt %, preferably from 20 to 40 wt %.

Claim 18: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the total amount of sodium carbonate and sodium sulphate is from 40 to 80 wt %, preferably from 60 to 70 wt %.

Claim 19: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ratio of sodium carbonate to sodium sulphate is within the range of from 0.1:1 to 5:1, preferably from 0.5:1 to 1.5:1.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the burkeite is present in an amount of from 40 to 80 wt %, and preferably from 60 to 70 wt %.

Claim 21: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sodium silicate is present at levels of from 0 to 20 wt %.

Claim 22: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the total amount of sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate, burkeite and sodium silicate is of from 50 to 85 wt %, preferably from 65 to 80 wt %.

Claim 23: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cationic surfactant (iii) is present in an amount of from 0 to 50 wt %, preferably from 0 to 10 wt %, more preferably from 1 to 5 wt %.

Claim 24: (Currently Amended) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cationic surfactant (iii) is a compound of the formula III:



wherein R_1 is a C_8 - C_{18} hydrocarbonyl chain, typically an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or ethoxylated alkyl group, optionally interrupted with a heteroatom or an ester or amide group; each of R_2 , R_3 and R_4 (which may be the same or different) is a short-chain (C_1 - C_3) alkyl or substituted alkyl group; and X is a solubilising anion, preferably a chloride, bromide or methosulphate ion.

Claim 25: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 24, wherein in the cationic surfactant (iii) R_1 is a C_8 - C_{18} alkyl group, more preferably a C_8 - C_{10} or C_{12} - C_{14} alkyl group, R_2 is a methyl group, and R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, are methyl or hydroxyethyl groups.

Claim 26: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polycarboxylate polymer is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate, sodium acrylate maleate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 27: (Cancelled)

Claim 28: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which is essentially free of detergency builder (iv).

Claim 29: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises one or more additional surfactants in an amount of from 0 to 50 wt %, preferably from 0 to 10 wt %.

Claim 30: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises one or more optional ingredients (vi) selected from soap, peroxyacid and persalt bleaches, bleach activators, air bleach catalyst, sequestrants, cellulose ethers and esters, cellulosic polymers, other antiredeposition agents, fluorescers, photobleaches, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, other dye transfer inhibiting polymers, foam controllers, foam boosters, acrylic and acrylic/maleic polymers, proteases, lipases, cellulases, amylases, other detergent enzymes, citric acid, soil release polymers, fabric conditioning compounds, coloured speckles, and perfume.

Claim 31: (Original) A detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which is in powder form.

Claim 32: (Original) A process for laundering textile fabrics by machine or hand, which includes the step of immersing the fabrics in a wash liquor comprising water in which a laundry detergent composition as claimed in claim 1 is dissolved or dispersed.

Claim 33: (Cancelled)